

# Friends of Del Norte, *Committed to our environment since 1973*

*A nonprofit, membership based conservation group, advocating sound environmental policies for our region.*  
PO Box 229, Gasquet, CA 95543

April 4, 2016

ATT: Board of Forestry, CDF, Matt Dias, [Matt.Dias@bof.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Dias@bof.ca.gov) 916-653-8007 and [Curtis.yee@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Curtis.yee@fire.ca.gov)

Regarding: THP 1-15-014 Del, Mark Gautreaux appeal,

The Heron Rookery that is located at this site is of biological importance for its known productivity and continuity over more than thirty years. This rookery is located along the Breeding Bird Survey route conducted each year for the US Fish and Wildlife Service scientific records of breeding birds in Del Norte County, part of a national effort. This site has been known to be stable but with some fluctuation of between approximately seven to twelve nests. Therefore an adequate buffer should be at least what is recommended by CDF to accommodate the more extensive productive capacity that has been observed. John Sterling is the coordinator for the Breeding Bird Survey effort.

The biologist Frank Galea is not an ornithologist, and is not knowledgeable about the specialized needs of these herons. It is very inappropriate to reduce the recommended buffer, in light of the previous experience of the Department with rookery abandonment regarding a similar sized rookery that retained a smaller buffer. We thank the California Dept of Forestry and Fish and Wildlife for recommending and requiring what is reasonable and prudent to conserve this important wildlife resource.

Thank you,

Eileen Cooper, vice president FODN on behalf of the board. 707-465-8904